

30 EASY DAY HIKES
compiled for his more noodle-legged friends
(a by-product of another project)
copr. 1981 Michael D. Loo

Here are 30 day hikes in New Hampshire suitable for beginners: all of them take under 6 hrs. (each) for the round trip and are less than 6 miles long. I've taken both ease and excellence into account in choosing them - some of the best ones, though short, are strenuous and might be dangerous under adverse conditions. Most will be difficult or impassable between November and April inclusive; some trouble might be encountered in the more northerly trips in October or May (or even June!) as well; and the two well-above-tree-line Presidential hikes should not be attempted except in the best weather. I know these mountains pretty well - the only hikes included that I haven't taken are Diana's Baths and Mt. Major: these come well recommended by a pen-pal of mine who is a noted authority on the Whites and is author of a number of books on the region. All descriptions, including errors (of which I'm pretty sure there are few if any), are mine, except those marked "copr. 1979 AMC" which are from the Appalachian Mountain Club White Mountain Guide. Distances and times are adapted from AMC data; times are approximate and allow for a certain amount of loitering about, sightseeing, and so on. The base rate is 2 mph, with an hour more for every 2000' vertical rise. This may seem slow - newer guides often give the base rate as 2 1/2 mph or even 3 - but this is the traditional figure, used by AMC since time immemorial; besides, if you walk down Boylston St. at 3 mph, you'll be lucky to make 2 mph on a rocky trail. You do, after all, have legs of pasta, n'est-ce pas?

notes

All trips, except as otherwise noted in the text, are linear - that is, they go from A to B and back again by the same route.

Distances and times are ROUND TRIP; however, variations- loops, alternate destinations, and so on - are not included; for example, if you want to bag Lafayette from the hut, the trip will be about 7 mi. and 6 1/2 hr., not 5.1 mi. and 4 2/3 hr.

Degree of difficulty is easy, moderate, or strenuous, depending on length, steepness, quality of terrain. Potential hazards are listed after.

If you take this to indicate that I can't write, see how many synonyms for "fine view" you can think of.

Hikes are listed in ascending order of TIME EXPENDED. The exception is Beaver Brook, which should be before Mt. Hale, not after (I just discovered this).

Things to have on a hike: water; lunch; extra munchie food (hiking can be hard work); hat; gloves; waterproof layer (poncho or equivalent); extra layers of warm clothing - sharp pocket knife; compass; matches and tinder; sunglasses and extra glasses; first aid kit (one per party); flashlight with good batteries; sunscreen (for you palefaces); bug stuff - Cutters or Jungle Formula or equivalent; a map of the area you'll be hiking in; whistle (adults only). Some of this junk could be dispensed with on a really short hike (the first 15 of these hikes).

Be sure to wear a pair of sturdy, broken-in shoes. There's nothing more horrible than a defective or too stiff pair of boots on a ten-mile trek (or even a one-mile one).

further reading, in no particular order:

AMC White Mountain Guide
 AMC Guide to Country Walks near Boston
 AMC Mass.-R.I. Trail Guide
 Daniel Doan: 50 Hikes in New Hampshire
 50 More Hikes
 Harvey Manning: Backpacking One Step at a Time
 Laura and Guy Waterman: Backwoods Ethics

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sources for maps

- I The USGS is in the process of issuing 7.5' maps (the most detailed available, covering areas of about 6 mi. x 9 mi. and on a scale of 1:24000) to replace the old 15" ones, which are in sore need of correction and are not very detailed, each covering a whole quadrangle on a scale of 1:62500 (1" = 1 mi.). Write to the USGS for their publications "Index to Topographical Maps of New Hampshire and Vermont," "Topographic Maps - Silent Guides for the Outdoorsman," and "A Folder Describing Topographic Maps and Symbols." These are free; the maps themselves are about \$1.50 and are available at most sporting goods stores or direct by mail from the government:

United States Department of the Interior
Branch Distribution, Geological Survey
1200 South Eads Street
Arlington VA 22202

- II AMC guides and maps are available at most sporting goods stores and some bookstores, and also direct by mail:

AMC Books
5 Joy Street
Boston MA 02108

AMC prices:

guides

White Mountain Guide	9.95	(\$1 member discount offered on books)
Guide to Country Walks near Boston	6.95	
Mass.-R.I. Trail Guide	9.95	

maps

plastic coated	1.95
paper	1.00

Carter-Mahoosuc/Monadnock/Cardigan
Chocorua-Waterville
Franconia/Pilot
Mt. Washington

A set of paper maps is enclosed in the White Mountain Guide.

AMC charges 5% MA tax on orders sent to addresses in Massachusetts, and a handling charge of \$1 for all one-book orders, with 25¢ additional for each additional book. 2 plastic maps or 4 paper maps are reckoned equal to one book.

- III The RMC Randolph Valley map is available in a package with the Randolph Paths guidebook: \$2.91 ppd. from:

Randolph Mountain Club
Randolph NH 03570

Triple Falls

0.2 mi., 15 min.

medium/slippy when wet; eroded

Proteus, Erebus, and Evans Falls are truly spectacular in wet weather but are well worth a visit at other times. The trail leaves S from the Dolly Copp Road about 1.6 mi. SE of the railroad crossing and about half a mile NW of the Pine Mountain Road. It rises steeply for 0.1 mi., following Town Line Brook on the Gorham side and then peters out slightly above Evans Fall. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Glen Ellis Falls

0.4 mi., 20 min.

easy

One of the most spectacular falls in the North Country, this is also by far the most homogenized. Nonetheless, I've encountered lost parties in the vicinity. Access is from a large parking area on the W side of NH 16, about a mile S of AMC Pinkham Notch Camp. The trail, flagstoned throughout, crosses under NH 16 and follows the Ellis River 0.2 mi. to the falls, which are about 100 ft. high. The main fall drops 70 ft. to a beautiful pool. Glen Boulder Trail (infra) does NOT go to Glen Ellis Falls. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Diana's Baths

0.9 mi., 30 min.

easy

These large, shallow potholes on Lucy Brook are a great place to stop off on a hot afternoon. From N Conway: take the road that runs W leaving US 302 just N of the Eastern Slopes Inn. Cross the Saco River and follow it N (keeping the river on your R). In half a mile the road to Cathedral Ledge branches L; continue straight for 0.7 mi. until you see a dirt road on the L between fields. This is the beginning of the Moat Mountain Trail, which you follow W just under 1/2 mi. to the foundation of an old mill and the Baths. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Blue Job (1356 ft)

0.9 mi., 45 min.

easy

"From Rochester (jct. NH 11 and US 202) take NH 202A W 2.8 mi. then bear R to Strafford Corner at 4.8 mi. (or take 202A from its jct. with NH 126 in Center Strafford 3.6 mi. E, then turn L to Strafford Corner - also 4.8 mi.) Continue to parking at 8.3 mi. opposite farmhouse. Trail, marked with red paint, follows cart track through blueberry field into woods to jct. Trail bears R, passes a well with hand pump, and turns sharp L to summit." copr. 1979 AMC
The firetower provides fine views, and the warden is friendly. There is picnicking on the summit; and you may gather blueberries, but only above the blue paint blazes. Below is private property (tempting but illegal). USGS Alton Quadrangle map.

Thompson Falls

1.6 mi., 1 hr.

easy/ledges slippy

This series of ledges is reached from the Wildcat parking area, which is between Gorham and Glen on the E side of NH 16 and just N of Pinkham Notch. Follow the nature trail that runs L (N) from the ski area. Signs point the way where the trail to the Falls continues from the nature trail's end. A small stream and then the dirt road to the auxiliary parking lot are crossed, and the ledges, from which a fine view of Mt. Washington may be had, are reached. The trail crosses the brook (careful!) and peters out after about 0.3 mi. more. AMC Mount Washington map.

West Rattlesnake (1220 ft)

1.8 mi., 1 hr.

easy

The Old Bridle Path to W Rattlesnake leaves E from NH 113 0.5 mi. NE of the road that branches R for Rockywold and Deeplaven camps (sign) and directly opposite the Mt. Morgan Trail (infra), and about halfway between Holderness (jct. of US 3) and Center Sandwich (jct. of NH 109). The trail ascends at an easy grade to the summit, which affords a truly spectacular view of the lakes region, and especially Squam Lake. The Ridge Trail to E Rattlesnake (1280 ft) adds 1.6 mi. and an hour to the trip; it is not really worth the effort. AMC Chocorua-Waterville map.

The Fallsway

1.8 mi., 1 1/4 hr.

moderate

"The Fallsway leads from the E end of the Appalachia parking lot /on the S of US 2 in Randolph, between Lowe's Store and Dolly Copp Rd. It goes E 0.1 mi. and then turns sharply R (S). It immediately crosses the RR. Soon Brookbank diverges L and Fallsway enters the woods. At 0.4 mi. from Appalachia the path passes Gordon Fall ... Lower and Upper Salroc Falls are passed 3/4 mi. from Appalachia. Soon Fallsway enters Valley Way (below Tama Fall). In a few yds. it leaves Valley Way and passes Tama Fall. Brookbank then enters and Fallsway ends in a few rods at Valley Way!" copr. 1979 AMC. This short round trip, which may be varied by using Brookbank (which parallels Fallsway on the other side of the brook) for the return leg, is well worth going out of one's way for. Lower Salroc and Tama Falls are most notable. AMC Mt. Washington map; RMC Randolph Valley map.

Mascot Pond

2.6 mi., 1 1/2 hr.

easy

Follow the Mahoosuc Trail from its beginning, which is just N of the northern jct. of US 2 on NH 16 in Gorham. The trail crosses the Androscoggin on a footbridge built on the girders of the RR bridge, turns S, and follows a road 0.6 mi. to a powerhouse, which it crosses on the upper level. In about 0.1 mi., it turns E off the road, ascends a bank, crosses under a power line, and enters the woods. 0.3 mi. beyond, a trail branches R 0.16 mi. for the pond, which is a pleasant, tranquil place for a picnic. The sandy cliff just above provides a lookout towards Gorham, but the slide leading there is slippery. AMC Carter-Mahoosuc map.

Arethusa Falls

2.5 mi., 1 3/4 hr.

moderate/eroded

These falls are the finest in NH; the main fall is 200 ft. high and is spectacular in all seasons. The Arethusa Falls trail leaves from a parking lot reached by an access road that branches W from US 302 about 2 mi. S of Willey House and about 3 mi. N of Bemis (Notchland), Bartlett NH. The drive on US 302 through Crawford Notch, passing Flume and Silver Cascades and Frankenstein Cliff, is notable, so a very fine day trip may be made, with a spectacular drive and a fine, though short, hike. There is a NHDP sign at the beginning of the access road, and the trail itself, which follows Bemis Brook, is well signed and clear. It slabs a hillside N of the brook, always within sight or hearing of water, and ascends gradually to the main fall, crossing the brook just before reaching it. The Arethusa-Ripley Trail continues beyond here, but it is not recommended because of its length and because its other terminus is 2 mi. N on US 302. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Mt. Willard (2804 ft)

2.8 mi., 2 hr.

easy/summit exposed; slippery when wet

It is said that this little peak just N of Crawford Notch affords one of the most rewarding views in the White Mountains, while requiring very little effort. The trail begins in common with the Avalon Trail, on the W side of US 302 at Crawford Depot (AMC). It shortly turns L and begins an easy ascent, mostly following an old carriage road. At 0.6 mi., Centennial Pool is reached, with the summit 0.8 mi. beyond. The view E and N over the Notch toward the Presidentials is especially fine. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Pine Mtn. (2404 ft)

3.4 mi., 2 hr.

easy/ledges slippery

Follow the Pine Mtn. Road (not open to unauthorized vehicles), which leaves the NE side of Dolly Copp Rd. at the height-of-land between US 2 in Randolph and NH 16 S of Gorham, having parked at its foot. In about a mile of uneventful climbing, you will come to a sign "South Cliff" and a trail R. Follow this trail, which rises steeply up ledges to the top of the S cliff, from which the view of Mt. Adams and Madison is superb. The path, well blazed in yellow, continues over the summit with its ruined firetower and descends to Pine Mtn. Rd. at 1.7 mi., near the Horton Center (water). Turn L and follow the rd. back to the foot. A nice but not a spectacular hike, except for the one great viewpoint. Very easy, though, and suitable for kids, even young ones. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Lonesome Lake

3.2 mi., 2 1/4 hr.

easy

Lonesome Lake is notable for its altitude (2734 ft) and for the fine views of the neighboring mountains that can be seen from its shores. It is not, however, particularly lonesome, since it is on the Appalachian Trail and has a sizable AMC facility on its W shore (refreshments and water available in season). The Lonesome Lake Trail leaves the Lafayette Place campground on the W side of Franconia Notch on US 3 and climbs, at times steeply, up to the lake, which is reached in 1.2 mi. The Around-Lonesome-Lake Trail continues from here, and you may follow it in either direction. It is wet in places, but the views of Mt. Lafayette and Lincoln from the W bank are worth any slight inconvenience; the circuit of the lake is 3/4 mi. and takes about 20 min. AMC Franconia map.

Mt. Major (1784 ft)

3 mi., 2 1/2 hr.

moderate

"This mtn. lies in Alton, E of the Belknaps, and commands excellent views over Lake Winnepesaukee. The approach is from a parking area (large sign) on NH 11 4.2 mi. N of Alton Bay and 1.7 mi. from jct. with NH 11D. The trail follows a lumber rd. W for 0.7 mi., then a path marked with dark blue paint diverges sharp L and climbs steeply through second growth and over ledges to the ruins of a stone hut at the top. At several pts. one has the option of one or more alternate paths, all of which lead to the summit." ~~copr. 1979 AMC~~ ~~The USGS~~ Winnepesaukee Quadrangle.

S. Pack Monadnock (2300 ft)

3 mi., 2 1/2 hr.

moderate/may be obscure in spots

The trail leaves the parking area (sign: "Miller State Park") opposite the Temple Mtn. ski area on NH 101 about 20 mi. W of US 3 in Nashua. It crosses the auto road and proceeds N up the mountain, often within earshot of the road. There are some challenging scrambles on the lower part of the route, and near the top the trail crosses a pleasant evergreen forest. The summit, despite attractive views, may be something of a disappointment because of auto traffic, loud music, and a general proliferation of human presence. The N peak is a rugged 3 mi. away. AMC Wapack Tr. map.

N. Pack Monadnock (2278 ft)

4 mi., 3 hr.
moderate

This peak is much more attractive than its more-used southern twin. It may be reached from the N, avoiding the congestion of S Pack. From Greenfield (about halfway between Keene and Manchester) drive SE on NH 31 for 2.8 mi. to Russell Station Rd. Turn SW (R), cross tracks, and proceed 0.8 mi. to Old Mountain Rd. (yellow house R). Turn R onto this unimproved rd. and proceed 1.9 mi. to a trail. The Wapack Tr. leaves L through birches and evergreens about 1.6 mi. to the rocky summit. From here, the trail, blazed in yellow (as opposed to the alternating yellow or white triangles that marked the Wapack Tr. earlier) is known as the Cliff Trail and travels E to a rugged cliff and prominent false summit, from which the view is panoramic and exhilarating. It then descends steeply alongside the edge of the cliff to a point near the base. This is a good place to stop, since the rest of the trail is distinctly less interesting. The view of the cliff from its base is fine. AMC Wapack Tr. map.

Mt. Cardigan (3121 ft)

3.4 mi., 3 hr.
moderate/not to be done in bad weather

The rocky dome of this mountain is one of the favorite destinations of hikers in NH. From the firetower at the summit you can see the Presidentials to the N, the great ridge of the Green Mtns. to the W, and vistas of the Lakes region and Massachusetts to the E and S. The West Ridge Trail is also one of the easiest trails I've ever encountered. From its jct. with US 4 in Canaan, take NH 118 N about 1/2 mi. Turn R at a large state park sign just past the fair grounds. Follow the main road, bearing R at 2.7 mi. from NH 118. Shortly after the road turns from asphalt to dirt, take a L uphill (state park sign) at about 3.4 mi. A picnic and parking area is 3/4 mi. farther. The W Ridge Trail leaves the area at a sign just beyond the pump (water) and promptly begins to climb. In 0.4 mi. the South Ridge Trail diverges R. Take this trail, which is a bit longer but gets you to the attractive and open S peak, where there are views of the main peak to the N and of numerous lakes and lesser peaks E and S. Follow the trail, largely in the open, to the warden's cabin, from which it is only a short climb to the summit and tower. Descending, take the West Ridge Tr. (signs and blazes), which is a direct route back to your car. AMC Cardigan map.

Mt. Monadnock via White Cross and White Dot Trails (3165 ft)

4 mi., 3 hr.
moderate .

Monadnock is the mountain from which Emerson and Thoreau drew much inspiration, a fine isolated mountain. Its summit commands views in all directions, and its rocks are worth extended explorations. The summit is most easily reached by the White Dot and White Cross trails, which begin at the State Park headquarters. From Jaffrey Center and NH 124, take the Dublin Road (state park sign) R (N) about 1 1/2 mi. Immediately after the Monadnock Bible Conference, a small rd. leads L (W) another mile or so to the park (fee). Many trails to the summit begin in common on a wide old road. The White Cross and White Dot among them, they coincide for 0.8 mi.; at this point the White Cross, a slightly longer but more interesting trail, diverges L just beyond a nice, never-failing spring. It climbs steadily over the SE shoulder of the mountain, rejoining the White Dot for the last 0.3 mi., which is above timberline. Take the White Dot, which is more direct, for the descent. AMC Monadnock map.

Monadnock via Dublin Path

4.4 mi., 3 1/2 hr.

moderate/exposed; slippery in wet weather

The Dublin Path, also known as the Farmers' Trail, leads up the attractive N shoulder, reaching timberline in 1 3/4 mi. Climbing steadily and steeply, it passes many vistas and interesting rock formations on its way. "From the flagpole in Dublin /on NH 101/ go W; at 0.4 mi. bear L on the road just S of the lake; at 1.6 mi., end of lake, straight ahead; at 2.0 and 2.1 mi. bear L; at 2.5 mi., opposite the golf pavillion, L downhill, through crossroads, to small clearing on R at 4.0 mi. Parking space. (Beyond the houses at 3.4 mi. the road becomes narrow and poor; it may be impassable when muddy.) The trail, marked with white Ds, starts opposite the clearing." copr. 1979 AMC.
AMC Monadnock map.

Morgan and Percival (2235 ft.)

4.8 mi., 3 1/2 hr.

easy to moderate

The Mt. Morgan Trail leaves the W side of NH 113 halfway between Center Sandwich and Holderness (see W Rattlesnake, supra). A wide path at first, it heads W and then N, reaching the summit in an easy 2.1 mi. From the summit there is a good view N, but a ledge just S of it yields a superb vista of Squam Lake. To Mt. Percival, follow the Ridgepole Trail NE 0.8 mi., with steep ups and downs on the ridge. Note: just after the summit of Morgan, the trail takes a L, while a herd path, to be avoided, continues straight. The view from Percival is also good, and a short scramble down from the summit will take you to some interesting boulder caves. To return to NH 113, take the Mt. Percival Tr. which leaves the summit R and descends rapidly to the highway. Turn R at NH 113 and walk or thumb a third of a mi. or so to the parking area.
AMC Chocorua-Waterville map.

Glen Boulder (3700 ft)

2.9 mi., 3 1/2 hr.

strenuous but not dangerous

Glen Boulder is a huge isolated rock that stands on a S shoulder of Mt. Washington. It is just above treeline, and the views into Pinkham Notch and N towards the summit are worth the climb. The trail leaves the parking area for Glen Ellis Falls (supra) and climbs very steeply to the Boulder in 1.45 mi. For a longer trip, go on to Slide Peak (4800 ft), a mile and a full hr. away on the same trail. A trip to Mt. Washington, which seems so close, will add 6 full hrs. to your outing.
AMC Mt. Washington map.

Mt. Hale (4077 ft)

4.7 mi., 4 1/2 hr.

moderate

The Hale Brook Trail leaves the Zealand Road about 2.5 mi. S of Zealand Campground, which is on US 302 about a mile or a bit more from Twin Mountain (traffic light, jct. US 3). It leaves a small parking area on the R and climbs through young forest to the bare and beautiful summit. It is direct and generally easy, with some steep places. AMC Franconia map.

Beaver Brook

3.5 mi., 3 1/2 hr.

very strenuous/dangerous in wet weather

The Beaver Brook Trail leaves the S side of Lost River Rd. (NH 112) at Kinsman Notch, about 5 mi. W of N Woodstock (jcts. with I 93 and US 3). It crosses a flat area, turns L up a stream, and then heads WSW up the narrow gorge of Beaver Brook. The cascades are said to be the finest in the area, and are about a mi. long, with numerous waterfalls and chutes. The trail follows the brook very closely and is wet and potentially dangerous; it is also extraordinarily steep. The falls, however, are not to be missed. Turn around when the trail begins to veer away from the brook. The descent will be tough and will take almost as long as the ascent. A continuation to Moosilauke will double both distance and time. AMC Franconia or Chocorua-Waterville map.

Mt. Starr King (3913 ft)

5.1 mi., 4 1/2 hr.
easy to moderate

This peak, named for Rev. Thomas Starr King, who was a 19th century mountain enthusiast, offers a superb view of the Northern Presidentials from a cleared ledge near the summit. The climb is steady and not too taxing. The trail starts from the N side of US 2 in Jefferson, opposite the former Waumbek Hotel. Cars may be driven in about .2 mi. and parked on the shoulder near some houses. RMC signs and blazes mark the way, which follows old logging roads much of the way, but be careful of several R turns you must take: signs are small and inconspicuous. At 2.3 mi. there are two springs (signs) - the one N (L) of the trail is reliable and refreshing. Shortly after, the trail turns R and heads to the summit. The shelter is now demolished. For a side trip to Mt. Waumbek (4020 ft), follow the trail beyond the viewpoint; the round trip will add 2.1 mi. and 1 1/3 hr., and the summit has no view. AMC Pilot map; RMC Randolph Valley map.

Mt. Webster (3910 ft)

4.9 mi., 4 1/2 hr.
moderate

This trail, well traveled and blazed in blue, leaves US 302 opposite Crawford Depot (AMC) and just N of Crawford Notch. It rises steadily through thick woods and crosses a number of streams. At 0.1 and 0.6 mi., trails lead to viewpoints over the Notch. At 1.4 mi., the trail for Mt. Jackson (infra) leaves L, while the main trail descends rapidly to a brook crossing just below a lovely fall on Silver Cascade Brook. Mt. Webster is a mile beyond. The view is towards the Willey Range and Mt. Carrigain, and a short stroll S along the Webster Cliff Trail will give more views over the cliffs. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Mts. Welch and Dickey (2591, 2750 ft)

5.0 mi., 4 1/2 hr.

moderate/rocks may be slippery at all times

4 1/2 mi. NE of Campton Pond Dam on NH 49, Upper Mad River Rd. goes NW and crosses the river. In 0.7 mi., Orris Rd. (Mt. Welch sign) diverges R. Follow it 0.6 mi. to a sign and parking R. Due to constantly high construction activity in this area, access to the trailhead may differ from the above; WVAIA has always been good about putting up signs, though, and local inquiry will get you to the trail most of the time. The newer and official trail, well blazed in yellow, follows a woods road and rises at a steady pace through birches. At about 1 mi. there is a R turn that may be obscure; this is near a point where a vista of Dickey's W cliff opens (except in full foliage). Follow blazes carefully. The trail comes out shortly onto rocky ledges, and from here the way is copiously marked in paint. The smooth, sloping face that can be seen from I 93 and NH 49 is crossed - a sporty but not hazardous section, except in wet weather, and the summit is reached about 1/3 mi. beyond. For Mt. Dickey, follow the trail into the col (interesting rock formations) and up the cone; the trail skirts a difficult ledge near the summit, going to its L. Above this ledge, go L and up for the summit, or R for a large flat rock from which views of nearby Mt. Tecumseh and the Franconias in the distance to the N may be seen. The easiest return route is by the same trail, taking care descending the smooth face past Welch's summit and to follow paint blazes as the tr. goes R shortly thereafter. A circuit, dangerous in wet weather, may be made by taking a newly blazed route from the summit of Dickey, across the W cliff, and then rapidly down into Dickey Notch, where the main-haul logging road is followed S to the parking area. If by some chance you were directed by some old-time resident to the former trail, return from Mt. Welch is easy: just continue straight along the backbone of the ridge past where the new trail turns R; old blazes have been "obliterated", but they are even more conspicuous because of this. The way is mostly clear, with a few blowdowns or brushings-in en route. The last (1979) edition of the AMC map shows the route of the old Mt. Welch Tr.; the new trail follows the E bank of the E branch of Dickey Notch Brook, then turns due E (R) and intersects the old trail at about 1800 ft. AMC Chocorua-Waterville map.

Mt. Moosilauke (4810 ft)

5.4 mi., 4 1/2 hr.

moderate/ summit exposed

The Gorge Brook trail leaves from the footbridge over the Baker River just below the Dartmouth Outing Club Ravine Lodge (no services). The access road (dirt) leaves the NW side of NH 118 about 6 mi. NE of Warren (jct. NH 25 and 18 mi. W of I 93 at Plymouth) and about 6 mi. SW of its jct. with NH 112 (this jct. 3 mi. W of Woodstock). The road ends at a parking area 1.5 mi. from NH 118. A path to the Baker River leaves from the bus turnaround (sign). The trail, signed in the DOC's orange and black, climbs almost due magnetic N to the summit, which is a huge, bare, rounded area with extended views in all directions. For a circuit, follow the Carriage Road SW from the top, past the Glencliff Tr. and S Peak (4560 ft; no view), and down into the woods. At 1.7 mi. from the summit, Snapper Ski Tr. diverges L and descends rapidly through swampy areas to the river and lodge, reaching the footbridge in about 1 mi. The Gorge Brook Slide, which provided an interesting but very strenuous and hazardous alternative to the upper half of the Gorge Brook Trail, is apparently no longer open to hikers. AMC Chocorua-Waterville or Franconia map.

Old Bridle Path; Greenleaf Hut (4200 ft) 5.1 mi., 4 2/3 hr.

moderate to strenuous

The AMC hut looks over Eagle Lake (actually a small pond) towards the rough cone of Mt. Lafayette. Refreshments, information, rest rooms, and water are available between mid-June and early September. The usual route of ascent is via the Old Bridle Path, formerly an improved horse track, but now much eroded and steep and rocky in parts. Trailhead (sign and registration booth) is on the E side of US 3, just across from Lafayette Place in Franconia Notch. Parking at Lafayette Place and roadside may be replaced by a parking lot to be constructed during the building of I 93 in the Notch in the early 80's. The trail climbs steadily E and NE with occasional views. At 1.3 mi. the trail turns sharply L and a side path climbs ahead to a stunning vista of the W sides of Lincoln and Lafayette. Shortly after, the trail climbs three bumps known as the Agony Ridge; these are not really that difficult but were thus named by the hut crews, accustomed to packing loads of 70 to 100 lbs. The hut is reached at 2.54 mi. For a strenuous trip up to the summit of Lafayette (5249 ft), add 2 mi. and 2 hr. AMC Franconia map.

Mt. Jefferson (5715 ft)

4.8 mi., 5 hr.

strenuous/exposed

This mountain is the most easily reached Presidential, thanks to the Jefferson Notch Road, which leaves N from the Mt. Washington Base Road about 4 mi. from its beginning at US 302 near Bretton Woods (cog RR sign). The road is maintained for summer auto travel and provides access to the Caps Ridge Tr., which begins at 3009 ft. There is plenty of parking at the Notch, but on summer weekends there may be dozens of cars here, for this is traditionally the First Presidential Hike for children and newcomers. The trail, a singularly beautiful one, follows the ridge due E, rising steadily. At the lower cap (about 4350 ft), it reaches treeline, and from here the way is rough, rocky, and steep, with interesting ledges and boulder caves. The remaining mile to the summit is in the open, with views on all sides. The upper cap (4830 ft) is reached at 1.76 mi., and from here to the summit at 2.4 mi., the path leads generally over the difficult footing of felsenmeer, a constantly shifting layer of rocks and boulders that characterizes the Northern Presidentials. The summit is a nice one, with the top ledge affording some protection from the wind. A short trip down the Six Husbands Tr. to the edge of the Great Gulf will give a good look down into Jefferson Ravine and the Gulf. AMC Mt. Washington and RMC Randolph Valley maps.

Mt. Jackson (4052 ft)

5.4 mi., 5 hr.

moderate to strenuous

This peak gives a panorama of the Southern Presidentials, Montalban Ridge, and the Willey Range from its bare cone. The trail begins opposite Crawford Depot (AMC) and in common with that for Mt. Webster for the first 1.4 mi. (v. supra). Just before the descent to Silver Cascade Brook, turn sharp L and up. From here the trail is steep and may be obscure in places, despite constant use. Follow blue blazes carefully. The summit is 1.3 mi. of steady climbing above the junction. To make a circuit, you may follow the Webster Cliff Tr. to Mt. Webster, and then the other branch of the Webster-Jackson Tr. back to Crawford's, but this will make the total trip 6.4 mi. and 6 hr. The distance and time given are for the round trip to and from Jackson only. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Mt. Monroe (5385 ft)

5.4 mi., 5 1/2 hr.

strenuous and steep; upper portion is very exposed and should be done only in fine weather; many of the ledges are wet and slick at all times.

The Ammonoosuc Ravine Trail begins at the Cog RR station at Marshfield, at the end of the Mt. Washington Base Rd. This is a thriving business center, and 50¢/person is charged for parking, but the hike is well worth the annoyance of the trailhead area. The trail leaves R from the trading post (sign), heads up some rickety steps and past a number of buildings, and then turns L into the woods. It follows Ammonoosuc River at a very gentle grade for 1.4 mi. to a stream crossing at the foot of a cascade. On the opposite bank, it immediately turns R and goes rapidly up the bank. Shortly a side trail leads R a short distance to a beautiful fall (worth the detour), and the main trail continues up steeply past a number of spectacular views of the cascades, Ammonoosuc Ravine, and the cog RR. At about 2 mi. it emerges at treeline and follows ledges (cairns, paint), sometimes at a very steep angle, up to the Lakes-of-the-Clouds Hut at 2.46 mi. Services are available only during the summer. The peak of Monroe is visible to the R; to reach it, follow the Crawford Path S about 100 yds. to the Monroe Loop; the summit is 1/4 mi. straight ahead. Special care should be taken to stay on the trail and avoid trampling the delicate vegetation - several rare species have been reported in this area. Mt. Monroe commands a unique perspective of the Southern Presidentials and Montalban Ridge and gives an intimate view of the S flank of Washington. The precipitous Oakes Gulf is ahead (E), with Marshfield and the Bretton Woods area to the W. AMC Mt. Washington map.

Views.	page	Falls.	page
A+ Moosilauke	7	A Beaver Brook	5
A+ Cardigan	4	A Arethusa Falls	2
A Jefferson	7	B+ Fallsway	2
A Monroe	8	B Triple Falls	1
B+ Willard	3	B Monroe	8
B+ Glen Boulder	5	B Glen Ellis	1
B+ Monadnock	4f	B Thompson Falls	1
B+ Hale	5		
B+ Old Bridle Path	7	Lakes.	
B Starr King	6	Lonesome Lake	3
B Jackson	8	Mascot Pond	2
B W Rattlesnake	2	Old Bridle Path	7
B Webster	6		
B Lonesome Lake	3	Peaks.	
B Welch & Dickey	6	A+ Moosilauke	7
B- N Pack Monadnock	4	A+ Jefferson	7
B- Morgan & Percival	5	A Cardigan	4
B- Major	3	A- Monadnock	4f
B- Blue Job	1	A- Hale	5
B- Thompson Falls	1	A- Welch & Dickey	6
B- Pine	3	B+ Monroe	8
C+ Beaver Brook	5	B Jackson	8
C S Pack Monadnock	3	B- Major	3
		B- N Pack Monadnock	4
		C+ Willard	3
		C- S Pack Monadnock	3

These ratings are based solely on my own preferences. "Views" refers to vistas both along the trail as well as the summit, while "Peaks" refers to the

quality of the summits themselves. For "Peaks" I've restricted the list to mountains with a pretty well defined peaky quality at the top; I omitted mountains such as Starr King and Blue Job because they are not notable as summits. I didn't rate Lakes because the high-altitude bodies of water in the White Mountains are all puny things and are becoming more and more heavily polluted; these three are the best the area has to offer - I omitted the Lakes of the Clouds (Monroe) because you couldn't drown in any of them if an elephant sat on you, though you might die of dysentery. Falls, of course, are falls, and this area is blessed with lots of them; these are the most accessible ones (and are among the finest) in the area. You may note that I dump specially on S Pack; the view would be quite nice if it weren't for the constant auto exhaust-hashish haze that plagues the neighborhood.

Hikes for kids; that's to say 5-15.

Glen Ellis Falls (p. 1). The view is good, the way is paved, there are water fountains and rest rooms at the parking lot. All ages.

Mt. Willard (3). Short and sweet, this will tire them out without making them cranky. All ages.

Moosilauke (7). Though fairly taxing, the summit is vast and open. Kids can run to their hearts' content and still not get lost. 7 up.

W. Rattlesnake (2). Very easy. 5-10.

Pine Mtn. (3). Also very easy, this knob is supposed to be the most northerly of the Northern Presidentials. As a child of my acquaintance said, "I can see the whole world!" Water fountain and, if the Pine Mtn. (Horton) Center is being used, rest rooms. 5-10

Diana's Baths (1). A flat half mile and a gentle stream in which, it is rumored, one may wade. All ages.

Lonesome Lake (3). The AMC hut - really an imposing structure - sells things like lemonade and cookies; profits go to a good cause. (In season only.) Older kids may appreciate the semblance of solitude. All ages.

Blue Job (1). Blueberry bushes on the way and picnicking at the top. All ages.

Mt. Major (3). Easy and nice. All ages.

N Pack Monadnock (4). A steady but gentle grade and a really fine cliff. All ages.

Mt. Cardigan (4). AMC says that this is the usual first "big mountain" for kids. All ages.

Mt. Jefferson (7). Though tough, this is the easiest of the Presidentials. 10 up.

Thompson Falls (1). Very easy. All ages.

Monadnock (4f). Accessible and said to be the most climbed peak in the US. If there is trouble, help is always nearby. Also, there's a hot dog stand at the base of the White Dot and White Cross Trails. All ages.

Fallsway (2). Tranquil and satisfying. All ages.

Old Bridle Path (7). Big mountain feeling without big mountain hiking. Older kids may want to push on through to the summit, though. All ages.

Arethusa Falls (2). Nice, wet, and cool. Muddy though. All ages.

Morgan & Percival (5). Not difficult, and not easy to get lost on. 7 up.

S. Pack Monadnock (3). The advantage is, if a young kid gets tired, an adult can go down and get the car. For older ones, there's not much charm, unless they want to get picked up by a townie in a Camaro. 5-10.

Mascot Pond (2). Okay for picnics. All ages.